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SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ, INR/P

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TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: NEW PRODUCT - DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING, August 18, 200

SUMMARY: The major editorial theme on Iraqi, Arabic language websites on August 18, 2005 was discussions on the constitution. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- [1A.](#) "Cautious Anticipation"
(Iraq Shabab Website in Arabic Editorial by Raid Salam)

The author states that there is only five days left in the constitution. However, it does not appear that the crisis is over, so the National Assembly will extend the deadline for another week. He doesn't believe that it will make any difference. The author believes that the final result is in the hands of the Iraqi people. The Constitution should serve the interests of the Iraqi people, he says even if the process drives away the tribes that were served in a fair and balanced way.

- [1B.](#) "The Iraqi Interim Government Law...Who will Guarantee its Continuation" (Iraq 4 All Website in Arabic Editorial by Mohammed Abed Al-Wahab Al-

The author thinks that it's obvious that the current Iraqi law is in pretend to be the representatives of the Iraqi people. However, he is proud of pretending to represent the people who voted in the election and wonders why they are trying to change the law. He cites various reasons such as the National Assembly trying to prove that they are not taking Americans, while others say that it is just people presenting their opposition to the law there is no government. He understands that it is very difficult for the government to change the law. But Iraq is currently getting the opposite of what it was promised, it is getting another vision of Saddam Hussein.

- [1C.](#) "Iraq...No to Postponing the Constitution"
(Iraq Shabab Website in Arabic Editorial by Mohammed Said Al-Shakarji)

The author states that some of the officials working on the Constitution are trying to extend the deadline and extend the Interim Government Law for four or five years. He believes that it would not be legal or politically logical to grant them that.

- [1D.](#) "For You, We Will Complete the Constitution. We Will Stamp it with our Seal" (Al-Nahrain Website in Arabic Editorial by Hayder Al-Hassnawie)

The author considers that both the Al-Nahdhah massacre and the Baghdad massacre were planned and executed by the same group. That group, he says, is the same people and had the same goal to alienate the people from the government and the political process. He expects that during the final days of writing the constitution and the referendum there will be many more similar attacks.

- [1E.](#) "In the Terminology of the Constitution...Danger and the Horizon" (Iraq Shabab On-Line in Arabic Editorial by Dr. Muhanned Al-Barak)

The author believes that despite terrorism and the lack of power and thinking about the issues surrounding the Constitution. One of the issues involves the people living in areas without oil. They are now wondering their share of the wealth. The author also talks about the fury over Hakim's speech on federalism. That speech, he says, should have not been a process especially since his negotiations were not done in public.

Khalilzad